COOPERATIVE INTERAGENCY ELECTRONIC FISHERY INFORMATION COLLECTION IN ALASKA

Presenters

David Ackley

Supervisor Fishery Management Specialist
NMFS, Sustainable Fisheries – AK Region

Abigail Smith

Research Analyst III
Groundfish Data Manager, Commercial Fisheries
Alaska Department of Fish and Game

Project Agencies

- Alaska Department of Fish and Game
- International Pacific Halibut Commission
- National Marine Fisheries Service
  - Sustainable Fisheries
  - Restricted Access Management
- Pacific States Marine Fishery Commission – grant management and project oversight.

Management and Reporting Authority

- Groundfish
  - NMFS
  - ADF&G
- Halibut
  - IPHC
- Salmon
  - ADF&G
- Herring
  - ADF&G

- Reporting is co-mingled for many fisheries.

- Jointly, the agencies process over 300,000 landing reports annually.

Project Goals and Standards

- Collect timely commercial catch statistics.
- Collect real time quota catch statistics.
- Reduce redundant reporting to mgt agencies from seafood industry.
- Improved data quality.
- Join multiple landing documents and reports with a unique trip number.

Program Challenges

- Each agency has regulations and confidentiality requirements.
- Each agency has its own management and policy body that provides oversight.
- Multiple stakeholders beyond individual agency staffs:
  - NMFS enforcement and state troopers,
  - Seafood processors,
  - Fishers.

Program Challenges

- Unique fisheries.
  - At sea groundfish catcher processors
  - Quota share fisheries
  - Small boat, near shore, fisheries
- Business constraints of diverse industry.
- Technology limitations in remote areas.
- Tender deliveries.

Program Challenges

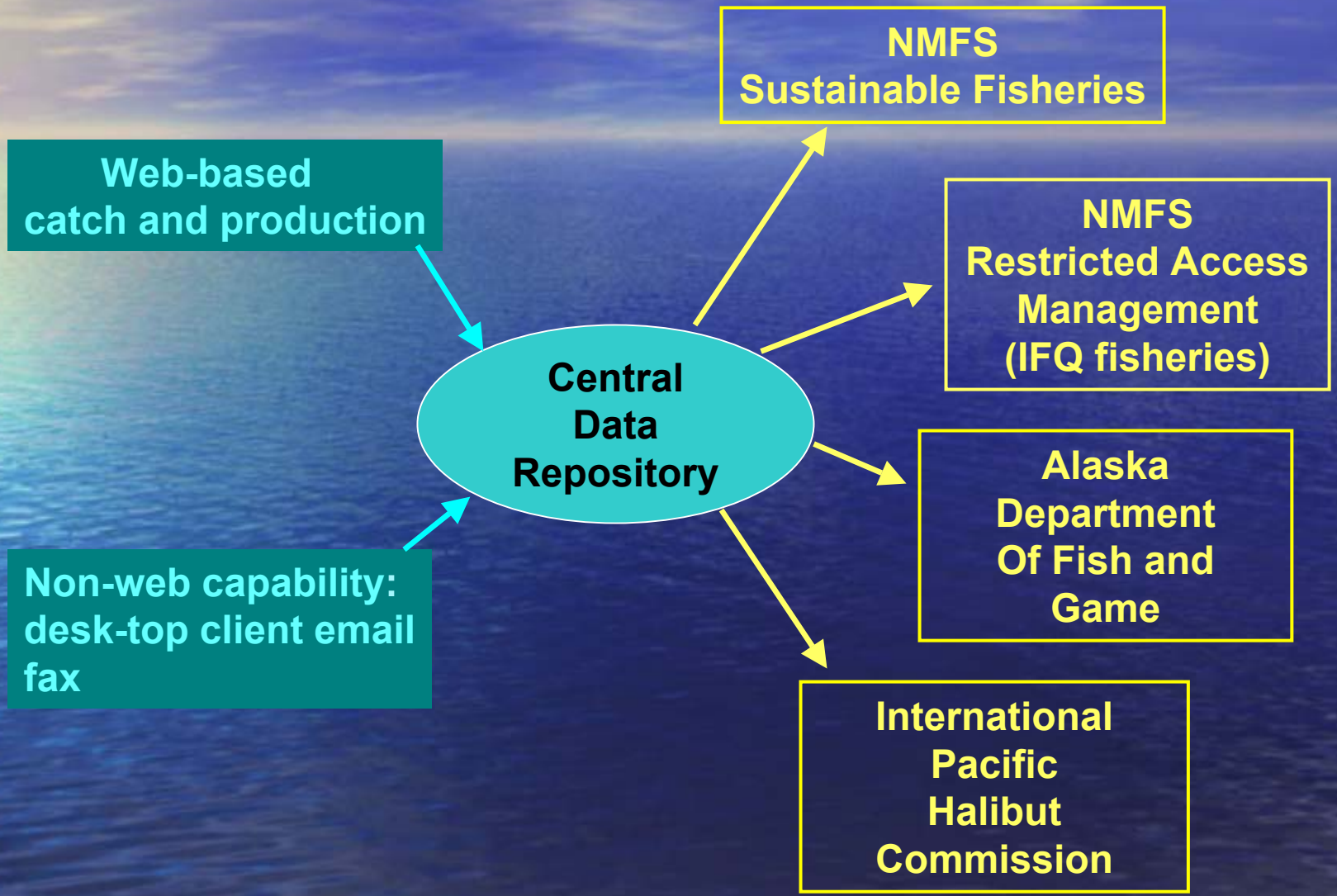
- Unyielding production deadline for one aspect of the program.
- Staged implementation for other fisheries.
- Additional technology assessment required for some fisheries.
- Funding for full implementation.

Agency Governance

Each agency has an a policy and oversight structure:

- State of Alaska Board of Fish
- North Pacific Fishery Management Council
- International Pacific Halibut Commission

Basic system



Development and Implementation Strategy

- Consultants for program development and deployment.
  - Project Coordinator
  - System Designer
  - Developers
- Interagency Steering Committee
- Interagency IT Committee
- Industry Advisory Group

Electronic Reporting Beyond Development

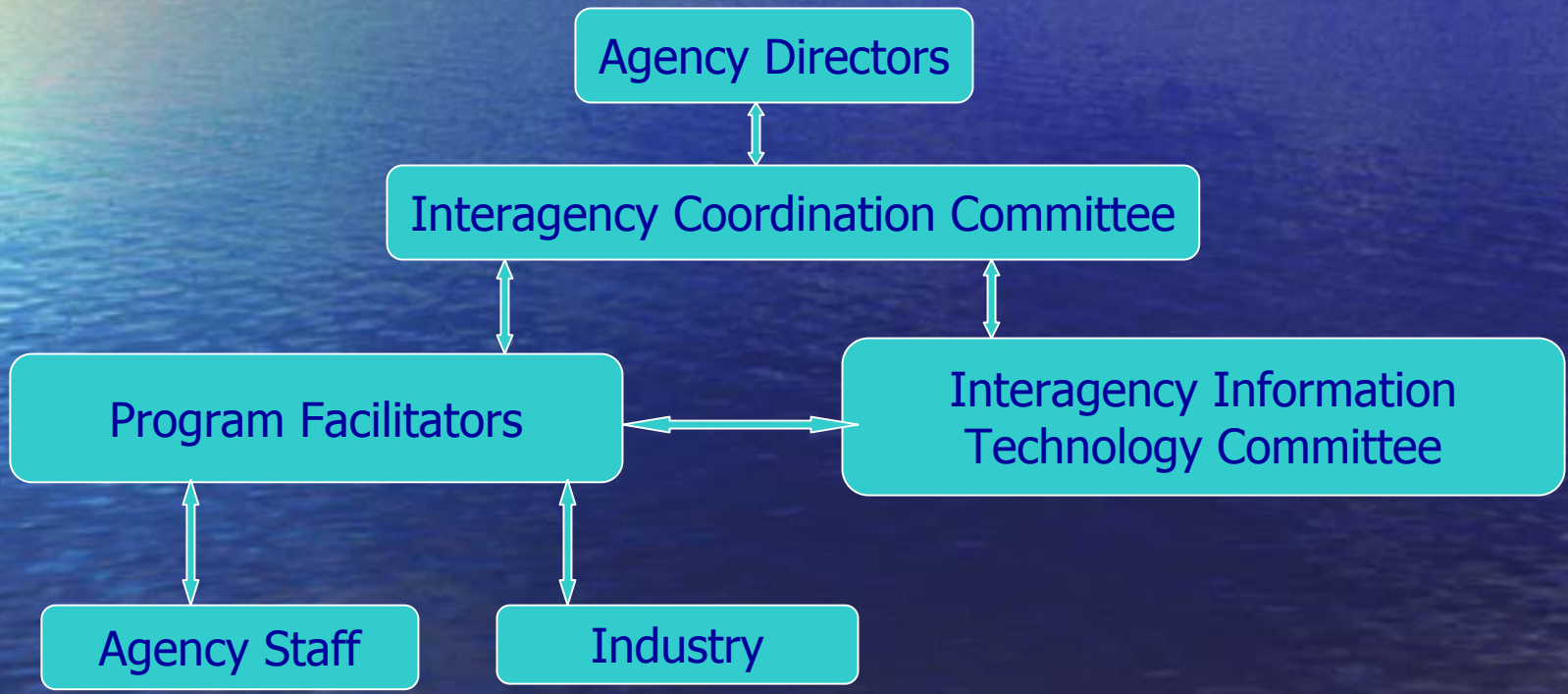
WHO IS IN CHARGE?

Interagency Cooperative Agreement

- **Program Coordination Infrastructure**
  - **Structure**
  - **Roles and responsibilities**
- **Program Evaluation**

INTERAGENCY COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT

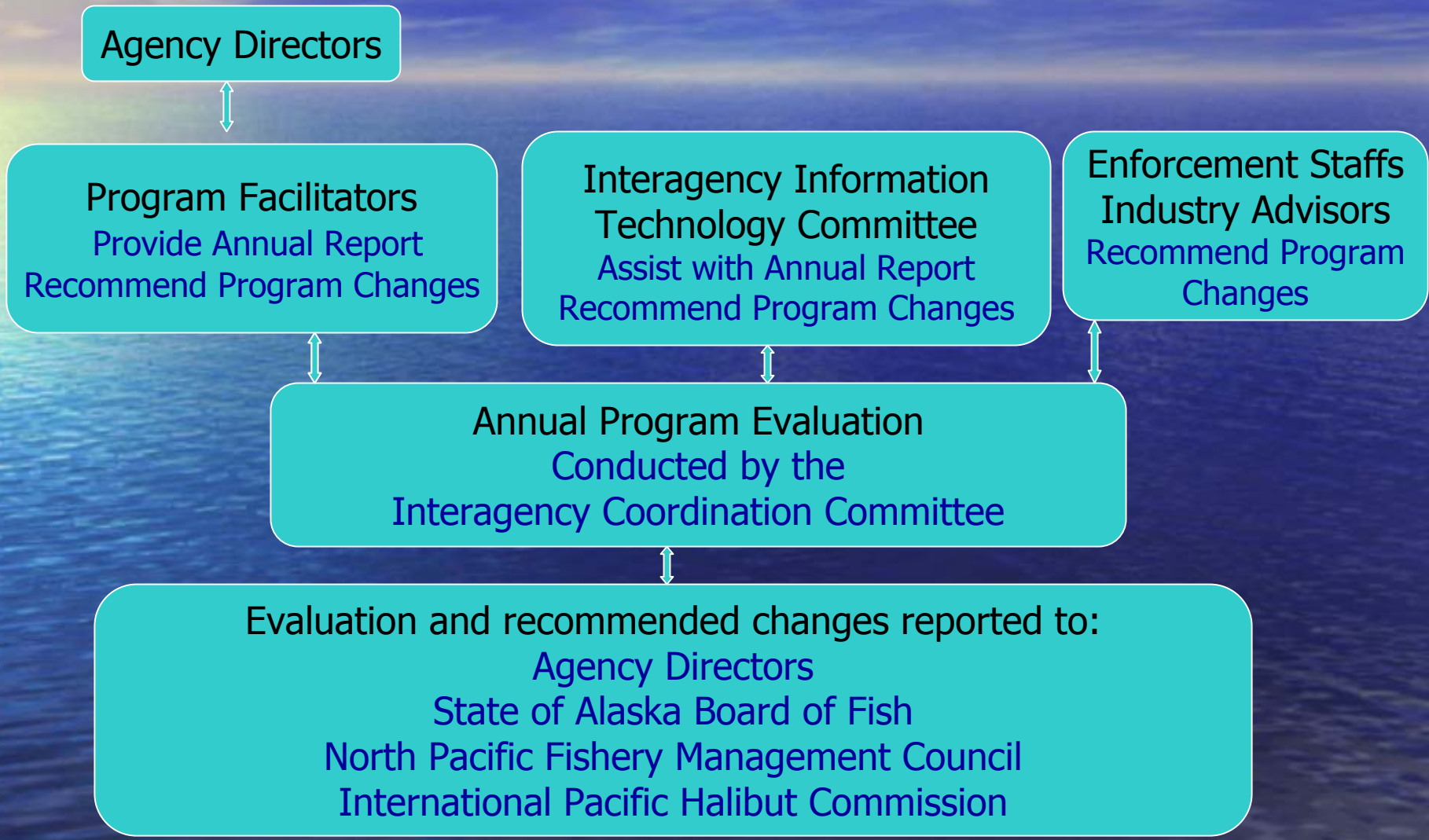
On-Going Program Coordination



Program Facilitator

- Primary coordinator within each agency for task completion and in-season reporting.
- Primary coordinator with industry as it relates to electronic reporting.
- Each agency has focus related to fisheries:
  - ADF&G salmon, herring and shellfish
  - NMFS groundfish and quota-share fisheries
  - IPHC halibut

Annual Program Evaluation



Joint Electronic Reporting Project

Implementation

Implementation order by fishery

Bering Sea

Bristol Bay red king crab
Eastern Aleutian Islands brown king crab
Western Aleutian Islands brown king crab
Bering Sea bairdi (Tanner crab)
Bering Sea opilio (snow crab)
Pribilof Islands red and blue king crab
St. Matthews Is. blue king crab
Western Aleutian Islands red king crab

Gulf of Alaska

2 - Groundfish in the Bering Sea and Gulf of Alaska

3 – Salmon and herring

System Implementation Schedule

- Establish requirements and business rules.
- Establish systems environment.
- Staged development of interface.
- Testing.
- Full implementation.

Fully operational by August, 2005.

Requirements

- Previous needs document
  - developed in 2002.
  - updated questionnaire.
- Joint Applications Development (JAD) sessions
  - focused discussions/brainstorming with subject experts.
- Dynamic/changeable structure.

Systems environment

- Servers/space at service provider resolved.
- Oracle database.
- Application server – JBoss or OAS.
- JDeveloper for Java application and web services.
- Established security protocols.

Development of interface

- Overall modular approach.
- Discrete applications developed in 2-week intervals.
- Put in users hands.
- Changed, enhanced with feedback.
- Each stage takes advantage of previous stage.

Testing and implementation issues

- To be tested by staff and in partnership with industry.
  - System access requirements (e.g. PIN).
  - Methods of non-web submissions.
  - Protocols for editing by submitters and staff.
  - Integration with NMFS RAM crab IFQ system.

Fully functional system will allow:

- Entry of all landings data from single entry point.
- Access to data in accounts by users.
- Data into processor accounting systems.
- Third-party submission with publication of specifications.
- Record of all submissions and edits.

Factors for success

- Clearly understood program goals – the why
- Clearly understood program structure – governance
- User involvement – our clients
  - Agencies
  - Industry
- Ongoing Evaluation

Questions